

# **SB365 - Reserve Organization of America - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jayson Spiegel

Position: FAV

Statement of Jayson L. Spiegel, Reserve Organization of America  
SB 365  
State Government – Veterans Commission - Membership  
February 8, 2022  
**FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Pinsky and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The 1,000 members and leadership of the Maryland Department of the Reserve Organization of America (ROA) are in strong support of SB 365. The bill would amend Maryland State Government Code Section 9-917 to add ROA as a member organization on the Maryland Veterans Commission. The Maryland Department of ROA thanks Senator Simonaire for introducing SB 365 and for his consistent leadership and support of veterans' issues.

My name is Jayson Spiegel and I am testifying on behalf of the Maryland Department of ROA. I am a Gaithersburg resident (District 17) and retired after 28 years commissioned service in the Army and Army Reserve. I am a Life Member of ROA and served as its National Executive Director. I also represent ROA on the board of directors of the [Maryland Military Coalition](#) and I am authorized to state that the MMC supports enactment of SB 365.

ROA, formerly known as the Reserve Officers Association, was founded 100 years ago by General of the Armies John Pershing and other World War I veterans. ROA was chartered by Congress in Public Law 595, 81<sup>st</sup> Congress (1950). The act was signed by President Harry Truman, one of ROA's first members.

ROA is America's only exclusive advocate for the Reserve and National Guard – all ranks, all services. Both officers and enlisted personnel can join ROA, which includes members from all 8 uniformed services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. With a sole focus on support of the Reserve and National Guard, ROA promotes the interests of Reserve Component members, their families, and veterans of Reserve service.

The Maryland Department of ROA provides a variety of services for currently serving Reserve Component personnel and veterans. ROA provides training, education and mentorship for its members. It affords junior personnel the opportunity to hear directly from senior leaders who provide updates on current issues. Through our membership in the Maryland Military Coalition, ROA advocates for veterans before the General Assembly and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. ROA also provides affinity partner benefits, including discounts on a variety of products and services, as well as college scholarships for member dependents.

Additionally, ROA offers a litigation support center to its members, which is particularly valuable for Reserve and National Guard personnel who experience problems with their civilian employers when they return from deployment or an active duty tour. ROA's attorneys have filed amicus briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Reserve personnel dismissed from civilian employment because of their military obligations.

The Maryland Department of ROA strongly supports SB 365 to add ROA as a member organization on the Maryland Veterans Commission. ROA's perspective would be invaluable for the Commission as it works to serve the needs of all Maryland's veterans. The Commission

membership includes 16 member organizations, but none exclusively focused on the needs of the Reserve and National Guard.

As a member of the Commission, ROA will be able to give voice to the concerns of National Guard and Reserve personnel of all ranks, including their reemployment after mobilization, pay, benefits, medical care, education, and other needed supports. These issues are of particular importance to National Guard personnel on State Active Duty in Maryland. With SB 365, ROA will be better equipped to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs in ensuring Maryland's veterans—many of whom are ROA members—are informed of available resources and are able to succeed in the state they call home.

For the above reasons, the Maryland Department of the Reserve Organization of America respectfully requests a **favorable report** on SB 365.

Sincerely,

Jayson L. Spiegel  
LTC, US Army (Retired)

Officers of the Maryland Department of ROA:

Department President  
COL Duane C. DeVance, US Army (Retired)  
Prince George's County

Department Vice President  
LtCol Dori Mansur, USAFR  
Prince George's County

Department Secretary  
Maj Annamarie Rozelsky-Heck, USAFR  
Prince George's County

Department Treasurer  
COL Joseph Glebocki, Jr., US Army (Retired)  
Anne Arundel County

Department Junior Vice President  
Senior Airman Lori Schlesinger, USAFR  
Howard County

Department National Councilwoman  
LTC Hazel Robinson, US Army (Retired)  
Anne Arundel County

# **SB 365 - MD Veterans Commission - Membership - Se**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
*Legislative District 31*  
Anne Arundel County

—  
MINORITY LEADER  
—

Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Alcohol

Health  
—

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 423  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3658  
Fax 410-841-3586 · 301-858-3586  
Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**February 8, 2022**

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 365**

Chairman and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 365 – *State Government – Maryland Veterans Commission – Membership*

Senate Bill 365 would expand the membership of the Maryland Veterans Commission by adding a representative of the Reserve Organization of America as a voting member.

# **SB 365 support with amendments.pdf**

Uploaded by: George Owings

Position: FWA



*Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs*

*Office of the Secretary*

LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
LT. GOVERNOR

GEORGE W. OWINGS III  
SECRETARY

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Members of the Committee  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Please be advised that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports with amendments SB 365 State Government – Maryland Veterans Commission – Membership. We would like to see language included that guarantees that the member representing the Reserve Organization of America qualify as a veteran under the 38 USC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWO". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

George W. Owings III  
Secretary

GWO:kss